XIII. *An Account of ſome Caſes of Dropſies, cured by ſweet Oil: In a Letter from* William Oliver, *M. D. F. R. S.*

SIR, Bath, Feb. 10, 1755.

Read Feb. 20, 1755. I Cannot recollect whether Miſs * * had been tapp'd, or not, when you did me the favour to call at my houſe. But I dare ſay, an account of her proceedings ſince will not be unacceptable.

Mr. Pierce took from her eleven pints of water. As ſoon as the bandage could be looſened, Dr. Hartley and I examined the ſtate of her belly. The epigaſtric region was quite emptied; but we found a great fulneſs, which extended itſelf on each ſide the inguen, towards the back. We put her upon a very ſpare dry diet, and allowed her but a quarter of a pint of liquids in the twenty-four hours. But tho' her urine much exceeded in quantity what ſhe drank, the ſwelling increaſed, and we feared the belly would ſoon fill again. A lady, who was with her, told us, that, juſt before ſhe left London, ſhe had heard, that two perſons had been cured of confirmed dropſies by being anointed, morning and evening, with common ſalad oil, which was rubbed into the whole abdomen, for an hour at a time, with a warm hand. We could not refuſe the trial of ſo innocent a method. The Iâtraleiptæ began their operation. About the third day of anointing, the urine was conſiderably increaſed, and continued to be ſo. The fulneſs gradually decreaſed, and in a fortnight's time was quite gone.

gone. Her appetite, digeſtion, and ſleep, grew natural, and ſhe recovered fleſh, ſtrength, and ſpirits. About ſix weeks after her firſt anointing, her menſes appeared, and at the end of the next month ſhe had a regular return, of good colour, and in ſufficient quantity. I ſaw her at the public room laſt week, in as good health as I ever remember her to have enjoyed.

You may be ſure this recovery was much talked of, and ſet all the hydropics a rubbing.

A man, aged fifty-five, from hard-drinking, and many wrong methods of cure, had been cachectic fifteen years, and had often the ſymptoms of jaundice and dropſy. Half a year ago, his belly, legs, and thighs, ſwelled to an enormous ſize. He was with difficulty moved from his bed to his chair, and was given over, as a perſon in an incurable dropſy. About three weeks ago, he began to anoint. After three or four days rubbing, his urine was greatly increaſed; and in a fortnight, his belly, thighs, and legs, were wonderfully decreaſed, and I ſaw him a few days ago walking about the town, whereas before he could not move a joint.

A woman of ſeventy years of age, of a thin habit, who got a livelihood by carrying cakes about the town, fell into an aſcites. Her belly was ſo greatly diſtended, that ſhe was obliged to quit her buſineſs, to confine herſelf to her houſe, and for the moſt part to her bed. She anointed. Her urine ſoon increaſed in quantity, and continued to do ſo. She was at my houſe this week, as lank, as ſhe ſaid, as a maiden, and in as good health as ſhe had enjoyed for many years.

Theſe

Theſe caſes are, I think, ſufficient to encourage farther trials. I am, with true reſpect,

SIR,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

W. Oliver.

XIV. *Obſervationes Eclipſium Satellitum Jovis habitæ Uliſſipone in Regio Collegio Beatiſſimæ Virginis à Neceſſitatibus nuncupatæ, à Joanne Chevalier Cong. Oratorii & Regalis Societ. Lond. Socio, Anno* 1754.

Read Feb. 27, 1755. DIE undecima Januarii, teleſcopio magno Gregoriano, long. 6 pedum dimidio, nocte clariſſimâ, obſervavi immerſionem ſecundi Satellitis horâ poſtmeridiana temporis veri, $9^h.\ 4'.\ 3''$. Hac, ac ſequentibus diebus, clarè conſpiciebantur faſciæ duæ in diſco Jovis.

Die decima-quinta Januarii, eodem teleſcopio, cælo etiam claro, obſervavi immerſionem primi Satellitis horâ poſtmeridianâ temporis veri, $11^h.\ 23'.\ 58''$.

Die decima-octava Januarii, eodem teleſcopio, obſervavi immerſionem ſecundi Satellitis horâ poſtmeridianâ verâ, $11^h.\ 35'.\ 30''$.

XV.